TOP SECRET-SECURITY INFORMATION

CA 405

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WOA

FE - Mr. Allison
Through FE-Mr. Johnson
CA - Mr. Perkins

March 6, 1952

Comments on Hong Kong's Telegram 2551, February 29 Regarding Guerrilla Operations in Yunnan.

CA fully concurs in the views expressed in the referenced telegram from Hong Kong. Li Mi's attempt to penetrate territory held by superior Communist forces by direct frontal attack rather than by small scale infiltration doomed his operation from the start. On the other hand, the mountainous area of Western Yunnan is ideal guerrilla territory and should be able to support forces the size of those reportedly under Li Mi last summer (about 15,000) if they were properly distributed and pursued guerrilla tactics such as those which the Chinese Communists themselves used successfully for many years against superior forces.

Even though the Chinese Nationalist forces in the Yunnan-Burma border area should be able theoretically to operate as guerrillas in the Western Yunnan Mountains, it is doubtful that they will be willing to do so because life in Burma is so much safer, softer and more profitable. The problem of incentive will have to be solved before it can be expected that these troops will abandon the security of Burma for the hazards of Yunnan. If these forces were no longer able to obtain any military supplies on Burmese territory but only in suitable areas in Western Yunnan, perhaps they might be induced to move into China where they would be in a position to harass our Communist enemies instead of our Burmese friends.

Orig - J M Allison & W A Johnson

Copy 2 of 5 cc: PSA-Mr. Lacy
" 3 " ___ S/P-Mr. Krentz
" 4 " ___ DRF-Mr. Chase
" 5 " ___ CA

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